

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

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FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT:
THE ARTIST AND THE STUDIO
IN THE 18TH AND 19TH CENTURIES

The Artist and the Studio in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries, an exhibition produced by The Cleveland Museum of Art's Department of Art History and Education, is on view through August 13 at The Cleveland Museum of Art.

The popularity of the studio as a theme is easily understood. It is, after all, the environment in which the artist has chosen to surround himself as he works to translate his vision and dreams into art. In a very real sense the studio is a manifestation of the artist, and its depiction in an artist's work becomes a statement of identity, affording the public a view of the artist's life and world.

The exhibition and accompanying catalog, a book published in the Museum's Themes in Art Series, look at five aspects of the artist and studio relationship: the artist at work in the studio, the studio as a setting for portraits, instruction in the studio, the artist and the model, and the copyist tradition and the museum.

Of these five, four are examinations of the studio as it existed within its physical confines, while the fifth looks at museums as settings that became, by the nature of their use, temporary studios.

The public's fascination with the world of the studio, and the artist's desire to proclaim his distinctiveness made the theme increasingly popular in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. During the Enlightenment the artist achieved

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greater status and recognition as a creative individual, making the studio, where creation unfolded, a setting of great interest.

This trend continued through both the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, as the studio was seen to be more than just a place of work. It became an environment central to the life and life style of the artist, where friends and acquaintances visited and for a good deal of his waking hours the artist lived. It became an effective background for portraits of those close to the artist and a natural setting for depicting the artist at work, both creating his own art and instructing a younger generation in technique and style. Central to that instruction in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries was the tradition of drawing from life, a tradition that made the model an important part of the artist's work and studio.

As an instruction tool the practice of drawing from a live model in the studio was complemented by copying works of the old masters. The latter practice became widespread during the nineteenth century with the formation and expansion of public art museums. The Louvre, in Paris, became a mecca for the copyist, who would treat its exhibition galleries as an extension of his own studio, setting up shop with all manner of materials and gear, in effect carrying his studio with him.

Thirty-two works by thirty artists are in the exhibition. Included are nine oil paintings, one watercolor, and four prints, with the rest of the works in photoreproduction. In addition there are three photographs of nineteenth century artists at work in their studio. Three of the oil paintings and the four prints are from the Museum's permanent collection. The other six oils and the watercolor were lent by Mr. and Mrs. Noah L. Butkin of Cleveland.

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Artists included in the exhibition either in the form of original works or photoreproductions are:

Frédéric Bazille
Paul Albert Besnard
Louis-Léopold Boilly
William Merritt Chase
Léon Mathieu Cochereau
Camille-Jean-Baptiste Corot
Gustave Courbet
Charles-François Daubigny
Edgar Degas
Edouard-Jacques Dufeu
Sébastien Dulac
Thomas Eakins
Henri Fantin-Latour
Théodore Géricault
Francisco de Goya

William Hogarth
Winslow Homer
Adélaïde Labille-Guiard
Edouard Manet
Jean-Louis-Ernest Meissonier
Samuel F. B. Morse
William Sydney Mount
Isidore Alexandre Augustin Pils
Matthew Pratt
Henri Alexandre Georges Regnault
Ary Scheffer
Emile Jean Horace Vernet
Jean Georges Vibert
James Abbott McNeill Whistler
Johann Zoffany

The exhibition was put together and the catalog authored by Ronnie L. Zakon, Supervisor of High School Programs at The Cleveland Museum of Art. The exhibition is free, and the catalog is on sale at the Museum for \$3.00.

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For additional information or photographs, please contact the Public Relations Office, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340.